

2015 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

UNCLE IKE ALLOTMENT

Below is your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the combined Uncle Ike and Pass Creek allotments. This AOI addresses Forest Service administered lands within the Uncle Ike and Pass Creek allotments. We are including a signature page at the end of each AOI which we are requesting permittees sign and return to the district. This signature page also includes the signatures of the district ranger and current range management specialist overseeing the allotment. We believe that this process better represents the cooperative nature of managing these areas and indicates an understanding of the information in this document as well as the information in your term grazing permit(s).

Please review your Term Grazing Permit for grazing utilization, range improvement maintenance, and salting standards. Actual on-dates and off-dates are dependent on range readiness and when allowable use standards are met. The Forest Service may approve changes to the grazing rotation in consultation with the permittees to address range condition situations that may occur due to weather related circumstances.

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Permitted</u>	<u>Non-Use</u>	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>Season</u>
Rocky Ross and Don Phillips	124	24	100	07/01-09/30

<u>Grazing Unit Rotation</u>	<u>Estimated Days</u>
Bald Mountain Unit/ Lake Unit	07/01-07/31
8-mile Unit	08/01-08/31
Uncle Ike Unit/ Mine Unit	09/01-09/30
North Creek/	Rest

Allowable Use Standard: End of season 4-inch stubble height on hydric sedges & grasses is required along the greenline of riparian areas. A patchy or uneven use pattern along the greenline will usually result in stubble height standard being met. While adequate regrowth may occur under average growing season conditions, the opposite may be true during below average conditions. Special attention should be made to drier weather conditions. A stubble height trigger above 4 inches is recommended in drier conditions to plan cattle moves as regrowth is limited under these conditions.

Riparian areas with greenlines dominated by Kentucky bluegrass and tufted hairgrass should also receive special attention to achieve end of season stubble height. Greenlines dominated by these plants have less bank stability than greenlines dominated by deep-rooted plants. Greenlines dominated by these plants are possibly in a lower state of ecological condition and should be managed to increase the amount of stable hydric sedges, grasses, and shrubs where appropriate.

Uncle Ike: 50% utilization upland grasses, 40% of available current year's growth on willow species

Pass Creek(C-T NF): 50% utilization upland grasses, 35% utilization on shrubs, 3 inch stubble height on riparian grass and grasslike plants within Aquatic Influence Zone (AIZ). Utilization recorded at end of grazing period, not season.

The drier mesic meadows adjacent to streams and springs should be watched to ensure that use levels are not exceeded. These meadows are of concern across the district and more focus on use levels in these areas will occur. While all adjacent meadows should be looked at, the drier meadows have less

chance of regrowth and therefore are of highest concern. The upland annual use level of 50% should be used to manage the dry meadows and your rangeland management specialist will work with you to determine when a desired use level has been met, so that everyone understands what the meadows should look like after livestock use.

Other factors should be considered for planning cattle moves between units. These include changes in grazing behavior, such as a change in grazing preference from grasses and grass-like plants to young willows and other shrubs, large groups of cattle congregating in fence corners, at gates, or riparian areas for long periods of time.

Designated Monitoring Areas(DMA's): DMA's are used to monitor representative riparian areas within a grazing unit which establishes a record of utilization and trend. The information from the DMA is also used to plan cattle moves, determine if end of season indicators are met, and to evaluate whether current management is effective or needs to be modified. Permittee monitoring, documentation and photos are encouraged before entering and when leaving each unit.

Cleaning Grazing Units: Grazing units should be thoroughly cleaned of cattle to ensure allowable use standards are met. Enough time should be made to thoroughly clean the unit. Bulls should be kept with the main herd or removed from the allotment when they disrupt herd management. It is the permittee's responsibility to correct cattle management issues associated with placement and distribution in all pastures.

Fence & Water Improvements: Please refer to Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit. Allotment boundary fences should be checked prior to cattle entering the allotment, interior fences should be checked at this time or before cattle enter a new unit. Existing improvements should be maintained each year before requesting new improvements.

All water developments and fences within the unit to be used need to be maintained and functioning before livestock enter the unit.

Weed Free Hay: In accordance with State Law, please ensure that hay that is brought onto the allotment for riding stock is certified and tagged noxious weed free.

Response to Predators: Should predator issues arise on the allotment, please contact your range management specialist and Idaho Fish & Game or Wildlife Services with the information. Coordination with permittees and all agencies listed above is important to assess predator issues and share information on predator management decisions on National Forest lands and those areas adjacent to National Forest.

Grazing Fees: The grazing fees for the 2015 season are \$1.69/head month. Your grazing fee payment will need to be received prior to turning livestock out on the National Forest. Receipt of payment could take up to 2 weeks from the date payment is sent.

Actual Use Report: An Actual Use Report will be mailed to upon completion of the grazing season. This form is to be completed and returned to the Lost River Ranger District in a timely manner. Each permittee will need to provide an individual report with dates when their cattle entered the allotment, moved from unit to unit, and when cattle were removed from the allotment. This information is used for the purpose of evaluating and analyzing grazing allotment and grazing unit use, compliance with annual operating instructions, and planning next season's grazing management strategy.

Questions and assistance regarding these instructions should be directed to Diane Weaver or your Rangeland Management Specialist at 208-588-3400, Lost River Ranger District or the Dubois Ranger District.

Uncle Ike C&H Allotment 2015 Annual Operating Instructions

Salmon-Challis National Forest
Lost River Ranger District
PO Box 507
Mackay, Idaho

Approved By:	<u>/s/ Diane L Weaver</u>	<u>5/1/2015</u>
	Diane L. Weaver	Date
	District Ranger	
Prepared By:	<u>/s/ Joshua L Edwards</u>	<u>4/13/2015</u>
	Joshua L. Edwards	Date
	Rangeland Management Specialist	
Accepted By:	<u>/s/ Rocky Ross</u>	<u>4/10/2015</u>
	Rocky Ross or Don Phillips	Date
	Permittees	

Please sign and return this page to the above address.